These skill-based language assessments are based on the phonological awareness, speaking and listening, and language standards of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects . The Common Core Standards are research and evidence based standards that are aligned with college and work expectations and were designed to ensure that students are college and career ready when they complete high school

Phonological awareness, listening and speaking standards at each grade level are assessed through a variety of tasks including classroom observation, individually administered listening tasks and individually administered speaking tasks. When possible, the stimulus words presented in each assessment were selected from A List of Essential Words by Grade Level to ensure that the vocabulary selected are appropriate for the student’s grade level. When assessment tasks call for the student to determine the meaning of unknown words, vocabulary words from 1 or 2 grade levels above the level being assessed were selected.

Because the assessments are “skill-based,” there are not instructions for standardized administration. The evaluator is at liberty to model the tasks being assessed to ensure that the student understands what is expected of him/her. The evaluator may also choose to provide additional cueing and prompting to obtain responses from the student. The assessment may be administered in part, or in its entirety at a given grade level or multiple grade levels. Evaluators are encouraged to use their clinical judgment when administering the assessment.

The Common Core State Standards define year-end expectations. Likewise, vocabulary words from Marzano et. al. are words that a student at a given grade level should be able to recognize and understand in reading materials without teacher assistance. Thus, when assessing a student with a suspected or known language disorder, it may be appropriate to assess skills at grade levels lower than the student’s current grade level.

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